



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, February 2, 2014
4th Epiphany Sunday

**Scandalous
Stories:
Delilah**

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

**The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in
Christ, changing lives and transforming the world**

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

NOTES FROM THE MCCLV

office

Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel

Office Hours:

Monday: 8am-2pm

Tues-Thurs: 8am—1pm

Fri: 8am—12 noon

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is

Wednesday at noon – email to office@mcclv.org

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form** in order to get put on the calendar. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or office@mcclv.org for more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.



MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!

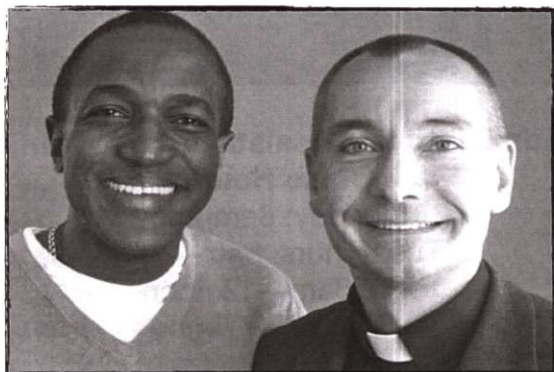
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley**. All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Interfaith Freedom to Marry Worship Service

Featuring keynote speakers:

Rev. Tom Decker, Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY
Maurice Tomlinson, Jamaican LGBT Legal Advocate



February 8, 2014 at 7:00pm
wedding reception to follow

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
940 N. 4th St, Allentown, PA 18102

Sponsored by:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
Pennsylvania Diversity Network
Equality Pennsylvania

"Gracey" for You Valentine's Dance

Saturday, February 15, 6:30-10:30pm

At Grace United Church of Christ

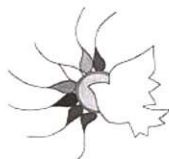
1947 New Holland Pike, Eden (On Route 23
east of Lancaster). Featuring the live band Fierce.

Welcome to **ALL** adults, single or partnered.

Admission is \$6 a ticket or two tickets for \$10.

Light Refreshments will be available. A portion of the proceeds
benefits The Tree House Project at Alder Health Services.

For more dance info call (717) 397-1012 or e-mail
graceucc@comcast.net. The tree House Project can be found at
www.thetreehuseatalder.org.



Early Morning Prayer

Consider praying with other MCCLV worshipers each Sunday from 8:00 - 8:45AM in MCCLV's Prayer Room (Rev. Goudy's former office). Prayer is powerful and those in attendance will be praising, thanking and petitioning our most powerful God during periods of personal and group prayer. *"Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* Matthew 18:19-20. For more information, contact Karl Steiner - karl.steiner@mcclv.org.

Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening



Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

**May the earth continue to live
May the heavens above continue to live
May the rains continue to dampen the land
May the wet forests continue to grow
Then the flowers shall bloom
And we people shall live again**

(Hawaiian Prayer)

Wednesday

MAKE WEDNESDAY YOUR WORD DAY! - - -

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study gathers for an hour at MCCLV. In this once-a-week Bible Study, participants read through a portion of the Bible each week. There is no homework or additional reading. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Goudy - beginning, intermediate and advanced Bible students are all welcome. The schedule is below:

February 5: Now What? (Acts 17-19)

February 12: Now What? (Acts 20-22)

February 19: Now What? (Acts 23-25)

February 26: Now What? (Acts 26-28)

March 5: MCCLV's Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season will be a dinner and video series. The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will return in May with a study on Romans titled: *"Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It?"*

Soloist Auditions for Worship Services will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 1:00-2:30PM. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. See Brian Jones or e-mail him at brian.jones@mcclv.org for more information.



SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

**JOIN IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY RALLY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**



RALLY BEGINS AT 12:30PM

**AT THE NORTHAMPTON COURT HOUSE IN EASTON, PA
669 WASHINGTON ST, EASTON --PLEASE BE ON TIME & BRING SIGNS**

PROCEED BY VEHICLE AT ABOUT 1:15PM TO

LEGAL SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

JUST OVER THE FREE BRIDGE, THEN LEFT, IN PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY

**THEN CONGRATULATE THE LEGALLY MARRIED COUPLES
AT A LIGHT RECEPTION AT RE:FIND GALLERY - BEGINS: 2:15PM
437 NORTHAMPTON ST, EASTON, PA**

Sponsored by:

Pennsylvania Diversity Network

Equality Pennsylvania

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

In-kind Sponsors:

RE:find Gallery - 437 Northampton St. Easton

Used Grooves DJs - 401 Northampton St. Easton

Sweet Girlz Bakery - 40 N 3rd St, Easton - sweetgirlzpa.com

SEE PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK ON FACEBOOK, OR CALL 610-432-5449, OR EMAIL LRABD@PADIVERSITY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO LEARN HOW TO BE ONE OF THE SAME-SEX COUPLES WHO GETS LEGALLY MARRIED.



February 6, 2014

7pm

Miller Forum, Moyer Hall

Muhlenberg College

2400 W Chew Street,

Allentown, PA 18104

MOMENTUM FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

A talk by Lisa Goodman, Esq.
President of Equality Delaware

An accomplished attorney, Lisa Goodman led the effort to pass three statewide LGBT equality laws in Delaware: Civil Unions (2011), Marriage Equality (2013) and a Gender Identity non-discrimination law (2013). Ms. Goodman received her J.D. at Widener University School of Law and is a nationally recognized leader in the marriage equality movement.

Sponsored by:

Muhlenberg College Office of the LGBT Coordinator

Muhlenberg College Meeting Points Series

Equality Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Diversity Network

Metropolitan Community Church of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Children's Book Fund Raising Drive

MCCLV will be collecting **NEW** books for sick children from the beginning of January until the end of February. Books needed for all ages of children and teens. They must be unwrapped, non-violent and non-religious. Books will go to the "Sick Kids Can Read" program at Lehigh Valley Hospital. They can be placed in the painted box in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Cindy Rodriguez if you are interesting in donating at Cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org



HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV has started, it will be the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus will be on living a positive life with HIV. Thus, the group will be called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group will be limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. The group will also have scheduled meetings for partners to attend, and a possibility of open meetings in the future for those interested in learning how to support and help those coping with this disease. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net



MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to www.youtube.com and search **MCC LV**.

**Be part of the important Marriage Equality Rally
Friday, Feb 7th.**

If you are part of a committed same-sex couple that would like to legally marry on Feb 7th for the Freedom to Marry Rally at the Northampton Courthouse (or you know a couple that would like to legally marry as part of this event), contact Liz Bradbury at lbradbury@padiversity.org or call our office at 610-432-5449. See more about this event on the Pennsylvania Diversity Network Facebook page.



DIAMONZ

bar & grill

After party at Diamonz nightclub, 9pm—2am for all who attend the Interfaith Freedom to Marry service and reception on February 8, 2014. Free admission and free first drink that night with church bulletin. Any questions please contact Cindy Rodriguez at cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org



HELP ASHLEY OUT!

Ashley Richard is the coordinator of MCCLV's 2014 Freedom to Marry Interfaith Worship Service Reception. Let Ashley know you are able to help by talking with him after the worship service or e-mail him at limexperience@gmail.com. He is looking for all sorts of food donations and assistance on

Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

- February 9** A Man's World? Patriarchy and Biblical Texts Part II
- February 16** How Not To Be A Control Freak: Honor & Shame in the Biblical Texts
- February 23** Banned from Sunday School: Sexualities in Scripture
- March 2** Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part I
- March 9** Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II
- March 16** Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I
- March 23** Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
- March 30** Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
- April 6** Reading Scripture from the Margins

*But seek first God's kingdom and
righteousness, and all these things will be
given to you as well. (Matt 6:33)*



**Ash Wednesday
Service will be
held March 5 at
MCCLV at
7:00pm**

Thank You Corner
MCCLV Thanks Charlie Cramer
And Michaela Rivera

for their servant hearts and hospitality each Sunday in setting up, serving and cleaning up for MCCLV's fellowship hour. They make it happen and MCCLV is very grateful to them and the other hospitality volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

God Bless you and Thank you both!



**Does Music Inspire You
to Move?**

**Do You Use Music to
Express Yourself,
to Pray, to Worship?
If You're Interested in
Exploring Music and
Movement**

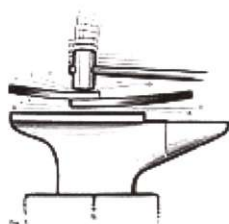
**See Carolyn Gaffney
or email
cargaff@gmail.com**

MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church

will be co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley. Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each \$1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negrón or Virginia Maurer after wor-



FORGE



a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you.

Contact group leaders to learn more!

FORGE Group East - Meeting in Perkasio.

Leaders: Loreli Bauer lorelibauer@aol.com
Elaine Ely pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



FORGE Group East - Meeting in Bethlehem

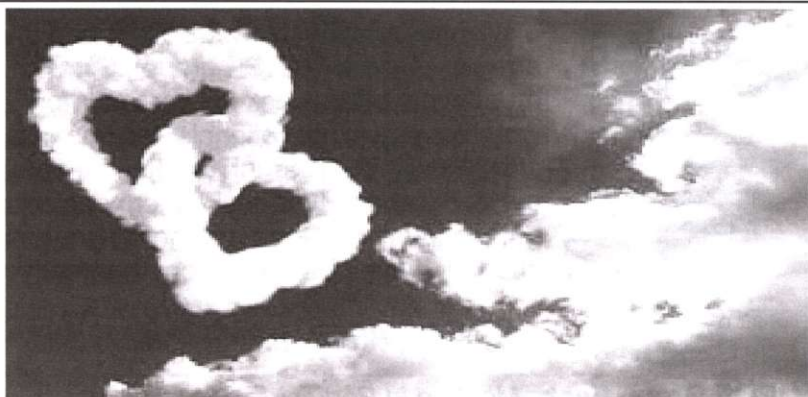
Leader: Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com



FORGE Group West - Meeting in Allentown

Leaders: Scott George smgmccclv@gmail.com
Ron Smith ron.smith@mcclv.org





UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

5th Epiphany: February 9, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:10-20, 20:1-7, & 26: 6-11

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Abraham & Isaac"**

6th Epiphany: February 16, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Numbers 20: 2-13

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Moses"**

7th Epiphany: February 23, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:13-17

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"The Biggest Scandal of All: Jesus"**

Transfiguration Sunday: March 2, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "Sustaining the Mountaintop"

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2014 @ 7:30pm

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness I: The First Mention of Holy"

1st Lent: March 9, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Readings: Leviticus 10:8-10 & Ezekiel 22:23-31

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness II: Not Common"

Today's Scripture Reading:

Judges 16: 4-17

After this he fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. The lords of the Philistines came to her and said to her, 'Coax him, and find out what makes his strength so great, and how we may overpower him, so that we may bind him in order to subdue him; and we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.' So Delilah said to Samson, 'Please tell me what makes your strength so great, and how you could be bound, so that one could subdue you.' Samson said to her, 'If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that are not dried out, then I shall become weak, and be like anyone else.' Then the lords of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not dried out, and she bound him with them. While men were lying in wait in an inner chamber, she said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' But he snapped the bowstrings, as a strand of fibre snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

Then Delilah said to Samson, 'You have mocked me and told me lies; please tell me how you could be bound.' He said to her, 'If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak, and be like anyone else.' So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' (The men lying in wait were in an inner chamber.) But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

Then Delilah said to Samson, 'Until now you have mocked me and told me lies; tell me how you could be bound.' He said to her, 'If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and make it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak, and be like anyone else.' So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web, and made them tight with the pin. Then she said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web.

Then she said to him, 'How can you say, "I love you", when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me three times now and have not told me what makes your strength so great.' Finally, after she had nagged him with her words day after day, and pestered him, he was tired to death. So he told her his whole secret, and said to her, 'A razor has never come upon my head; for I have been a nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, then my strength would leave me; I would become weak, and be like anyone else.'

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
1/26/2014	78	\$3,007.59
1/19/2014	89	\$2,000.86
1/12/2014	111	\$2,123.00
1/05/2014	88	\$2,404.10

MCCLV Year-to-Date Budget:\$15,667.92

MCCLV Year-to-Date Offering:\$9,535.55

Surplus or Deficit?-\$6,132.37 (Deficit)

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality,
Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:

If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy

Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming
and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:

Cynthia Rodriguez | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank
and Messengers Art Ministry

Media & Marketing:

If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre,

Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

MCCLV Board meets the second Sunday of every month.

**If you would like an item included on their agenda
see any Board Member**

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby,
Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org